

A drive shaft assembly to interconnect a driving component and a driven component has a first shaft and a second shaft operably engaged with the first shaft to enable torque transmission and relative axial sliding motion. A joint component operably interconnects one of the first and second shafts to one of the driving and/or driven components. The joint component is rotatable through a specified range of rotation, or “free-motion”. The joint component is axially fixed relative to one of the second shaft, driving component and/or the driven component.